(e) if not, the reasons for ignoring such demands made by social activists and safety forums?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, Ministry on its own as well as in consideration of suggestions from various quarters, has already taken initiative for not to issue/renew liquor licenses to shops located on National Highways by the State/Union Territory Governments, being a traffic hazard. Recently, National Road Safety Council (NRSC) in its meeting held on 15th January, 2004, unanimously agreed that licenses for liquor vends should not be given along National Highways.

Conversion of State roads in Uttar Pradesh into NHs

2517. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert the State roads in Uttar Pradesh into National Highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Disaster Management System for Delhi

2518. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 50 per cent of buildings in the capital city Delhi are prone to disaster;

(b) whether Delhi Government has set up some Disaster Management System to take care of such eventualities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of Government to ensure safety of the inmates residing in mushrooming multistoreyed unauthorised constructions in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir. The Government is not aware of the figure of 50 per cent as all structures face disaster risk to some degree. However, in the Vulnerability Atlas of India (1997) prepared by the Expert Group constituted by Ministry of Urban Development, based on distribution of Houses as per 1991 Census by predominant materials of roof and wall combinations have been worked out and it shows that only 6.55% of the houses are prone to High Damage Risk (H), 85.56% are prone to Medium Damage Risk (M), 4.98% is liable to Low Damage Risk (L) and 2.91% is liable to Very Low Damage Risk (VL).

(b) and (c) Delhi Government has notified Delhi Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor.

(d) Community awareness programmes have been started to make people aware of their vulnerabilities.

Institute of Seismological Research in Gujarat

2519. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that consequent to the devastating earthquake, the State Government of Gujarat are keen to establish an institute of Seismological Research in Gujarat which would be a R & D Institution of International repute;

(b) if so, details of decision on the proposal by the Central Government; and

(c) the provision of funds for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Gujarat State Govenrment has informed that the State is taking necessary steps to establish the Institute through its internal resources and external assistance. A Director General to head the Institute has already been appointed. Out of the World Bank loan received by State Government under Gujarat Emergency Earthquake Reconstruction Project, an amount of Rs.30.00 crores has been allocated for the institute. There are no separate budgetary provisions within Department of Science and Technology allocations for the said institute. However, during the last